

would also see a note that reads, "United We Stand. Never be forgotten. Always to be loved. A symbol of silence that needs to be broken."

That memorial has been erected outside the home of Clinton Scott Risetter, 37, the victim of a hate crime.

On February 24, 2002, Clint Risetter awoke in his apartment engulfed in flames and then tried to escape as he was burning. When firefighters arrived, they found him dead on his patio. Two days later, Martin Thomas Hartmann walked into the Santa Barbara Police Department and admitted to entering Clint's apartment, pouring gasoline on him as he slept, and then setting him on fire.

Martin Hartmann had known Clint for several months but had learned just recently that Clint was gay. He told police about his hatred toward gays and how he "... decided to put [Clint] out of his misery," because he was gay. He believed that he was doing the right thing and that Clint deserved to die.

The note on the tree outside Clint Risetter's apartment expresses not only the views of its author, but also the views of the more than 500 people that joined together Monday night in Santa Barbara to light candles in a vigil for Clint. One of the vigil's attendees, Russ Chaffin, said, "I can't be silent. This is my community. I cannot stand it that something like this could happen in my community."

I simply cannot stand silent when such a violent act is committed against an innocent person. I was deeply saddened and disturbed to hear the horrific details of Clint's death. It's hard for me to imagine a more heinous act of hatred than to set another human being on fire. Unfortunately, Clint's death is characteristic of many hate crimes in America; where an attacker repeatedly beats, stabs or severely burns his victim as if he is removing whatever it is he hates out of the person. And the attacker feels justified in doing so, as if he is doing a great service to humanity by killing the person.

In California, I have seen, first-hand, the devastating impact hate crimes have on victims, their families and their communities. A hate crime divides neighborhoods and breeds a sense of mistrust and fear within a community, just like it has in Santa Barbara. This is why I have long supported legislation aimed at protecting citizens from crimes based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

According to the FBI's latest statistics, hate crimes based on sexual orientation rose every year between 1994 and 2000. Yet, current Federal hate crimes law does not include crimes against others because of sexual orientation. It only covers crimes motivated by bias on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin. The current law also limits Federal hate crime prosecutions to instances in which the victim was targeted because he or she was exercising one of six nar-

rowly defined federally-protected activities, such as serving on a jury, voting, attending a public school, eating at a restaurant or lodging at a hotel.

The limitations of current law prevent it from reaching many cases where individuals are killed or injured by just walking down the street, or, as we have now seen, even sleeping in their own homes. It does not extend basic civil rights protections to every American, only to a few and under certain circumstances. Updating the current law would not provide special rights, it would ensure equal protection.

"The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001," legislation of which I am an original cosponsor, would expand current Federal protections against hate crimes based on race, color, religion, and national origin; amend the criminal code to cover hate crimes based on gender, disability, and sexual orientation; authorize grants for State and local programs designed to combat and prevent hate crimes; and enable the federal government to assist State and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

Final passage of "The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001," is long overdue. It is necessary for the safety and well being of millions of Americans. No American should have to live in fear because of his or her disability. No American should be afraid to walk down the street for fear of a gender-motivated attack. And certainly, no American should be afraid to sleep in their own home because of his or her sexual orientation.

We have had strong bipartisan support for this legislation in the past, and it continues to receive bipartisan support. We just have not been able to get it to the President's desk for his consideration. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to work to ensure that this legislation is not simply supported, but actually gets passed and signed into law. Let's send a signal to Clint Risetter's family, and to all Americans, that our nation will no longer turn a blind eye to hate crimes in this country.

CONFIRMATION OF SHERIFF STEPHEN FITZGERALD TO BE U.S. MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Sheriff Stephen Fitzgerald to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Wisconsin.

Sheriff Fitzgerald's qualifications for this position are impressive. He has served as the Sheriff of Dodge County since 1989 and as a detective and patrol officer with the Chicago Police Department before seeing the light and moving to the greener pastures of Wisconsin to continue his lifelong devotion to law enforcement and public service.

Sheriff Fitzgerald received a unanimous vote of the Judiciary Committee

yesterday and deserves the support of the full Senate today. We look forward to his service to the Western District of Wisconsin.

FLORIDA'S 2002 OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize five athletes who recently represented our Nation at the 19th Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

While the accomplishments of these competitors are exceptional by any measure, this group deserves special recognition; that's because Garrett Hines, Derek Parra, Jennifer Rodriguez, Brian Shimer and Chris Thorpe are Floridians. For the record, Florida sees snow a little more often than once every ice age, and the State's highest mountain is but a bunny hill compared to the terrain these athletes saw in Utah.

Nevertheless, these five Floridians won seven medals in the luge, the bobsled and on the speed skating oval.

Garrett Hines, along with teammate Randy Jones, became the first black American males to win a medal in the Winter Olympics, as the United States took silver in the four-man bobsled. Garrett is the pride of Sanford, FL, and I'd like to wish him luck in his future endeavors.

Similarly, Derek Parra achieved a barrier-breaking milestone, becoming the first Hispanic American to medal in the Winter Olympics as he won both a gold and silver in speed skating.

These two pioneers have left a lasting mark on their sports, and I am proud to call them Floridians.

Also, Jennifer Rodriguez, known as "Miami Ice," showed the world that South Florida has a place on the Winter Olympic map. After becoming the first Hispanic American to compete for the United States Winter Olympic Team during the 1998 Games in Japan, Rodriguez not only competed in Salt Lake City, she won two speed skating bronze medals.

Brian Shimer continued the South Florida success, as the Naples native took home a bronze in the four-man bobsled. This five-time Olympian had never before won a medal, but as the driver in this year's bronze medal winning sled, he has realized a career-long goal.

Finally, Daytona Beach resident Chris Thorpe, added a bronze medal in doubles luge to the silver he won four years ago in the Nagano Games. Chris has said this will be his last Olympics, and I'd like to wish him luck as he finishes his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

I applaud the commitment these athletes have shown in reaching the pinnacle of their respective sports, and I hope their willingness to sacrifice and their determination to succeed motivates all Americans to exceed expectations and achieve the extraordinary.

I would ask to have printed in the RECORD the names and hometowns of

these five athletes, along with the events they competed in and the medals they won. This group is a portrait of diversity, and as representatives of Florida and America, they have made us all very proud.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FLORIDA MEDALISTS AT THE 19TH WINTER
OLYMPIC GAMES

Garrett Hines, Orlando, FL, Silver, Bobsled, Four-man; Derek Parra, Orlando, FL, Gold, Speed skating, 1,500 meters, Silver, Speed skating, 5,000 meters; Jennifer Rodriguez, Miami, FL, Bronze, Speed skating, 1,000 meters, Bronze, Speed skating, 1,500 meters; Brian Shimer, Naples, FL, Bronze, Bobsled, Four-man; Chris Thorpe, Daytona Beach, FL, Bronze, Luge, Doubles.

IN MEMORY OF HOWARD CANNON

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to remember our friend, and outstanding former chairman of the Commerce Committee, Howard Cannon. I had the good fortune to serve with Senator Cannon for most of his four terms, and what set him above in my eyes was that he came from the school that the Senate is an institution where people get things done. Had it not been for this courageous vote to end a filibuster in 1964, the landmark civil rights legislation that has so dramatically changed this country would never have gotten to the Senate floor.

It is almost 20 years since he left the Commerce Committee, and I find his shoes are still difficult to fill. We called him Mr. Aviation because he ended 40 years of federal control over the airlines. Had it not been for his interest in water projects and basic infrastructure, Las Vegas would not have had the phenomenal growth it has seen.

No question, it is hard to find a Senator in the last half century whose loyalty to his convictions has made more lasting contributions to our nation and to his state. We will miss him.

My wife Peatsy, and I want to express our deepest sympathy to his charming wife, Dorothy, and to their family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2001

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 10, 1999 in Anchorage, AK. A gay man, Alexander Paul Nicholai, 45, was stabbed to death in his apartment. The attacker, Ken-

neth J. Washington, 21, who claimed he was defending himself against unwanted sexual advances, was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENFORCING
GUN LAWS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, sadly another gun tragedy occurred in my State this past Tuesday in Mount Pleasant, MI when three people were shot and killed allegedly by the ex-husband of one of them. According to a Detroit Free Press article, the man had a recent domestic violence conviction. This case illustrates the importance of closing the loopholes in our gun laws and preventing domestic violence offenders from owning firearms.

According to a Violence Policy Center analysis, a woman is 14 times more likely to be murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance or close relative if there was a history of domestic violence. Having one or more guns in the home makes a woman more than seven times more likely to be the victim of homicide.

Current law prohibits the possession of firearms by any person convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence and prohibits the sale of any firearm or ammunition to a person convicted of domestic violence. But we have to do more to prevent women from being victims of gun violence.

First, we must continue to fund the National Criminal History Improvement Program, which assists States in compiling criminal records and establishing identification systems for Brady gun background checks. In addition, we need to act now to close the gun show loophole and keep domestic abusers and other criminals from buying weapons at gun shows. These critical steps will help make America safer by ensuring that the criminal background information is accurate and accessible and make it tougher for those with a domestic violence conviction to obtain a firearm by easily bypassing a background check.●

IN HONOR OF HADASSAH'S 90TH
ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CORZINE. I rise today to pay tribute to Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, on the occasion of their 90th anniversary. Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold and a small study circle of American women, Hadassah was committed to bringing modern health care to the Holy Land. It has since grown to become the largest Jewish and largest women's membership organization in the nation.

In 1913, this fledgling organization sent two public health nurses to Jerusalem to set up a maternity clinic and treatment center for women and children. A short 27 years later, Hadassah established the Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus. Since that auspicious milestone, Hadassah has become a leading force in providing for Israel's medical needs, opening various clinics across the country and a new center of medical excellence, the world-renowned Ein Karem Hospital. I had the chance to personally visit the Hadassah facilities when I was in Israel last August, and to see first hand the care and compassion that are provided on a daily basis to anyone in need regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin. Hadassah hospitals, in addition to serving as a model of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East, provide state-of-the-art health services ranging from emergency attention to long-term care to more than 600,000 patients a year.

As its first national domestic effort, Hadassah women sold \$200 million in World War II bonds—a remarkable accomplishment by any standard. After Pearl Harbor, Hadassah mobilized its members to aid the war effort by beginning a blood bank and donating supplies. Their work continues in the United States through voter registration drives, grassroots advocacy on United States-Israel relations, volunteering in domestic violence shelters, and numerous other humanitarian efforts.

Another key component of Hadassah's mission is education. Through the College of Technology, the Career Counseling Institute, and Youth Villages, and in the United States through Young Judaca and the Hadassah Leadership Academy, they accomplish their goal to provide the people of Israel with quality educational programs and learning opportunities.

Ninety years later, the Hadassah Foundation remains true to its original mission and is dedicated to—improving the status, health and well being of women and girls; bringing their contributions, issues and needs from the margins to the center of Jewish concern; and encouraging and facilitating active participation in decisionmaking and in leadership in all spheres of life. Their strength comes from action. And their actions bring to their sisters, to their homeland, and to our Nation the precious gifts of health, education, and the power of hope. As Hadassah looks toward the next century, they see continued pioneering, continued progress, and continued innovation in health care in Israel, while continuing to share their knowledge and experience for the benefit of mankind.

For the services they have provided to Israel and across the globe, and for their dedication to the well-being of their community, I offer my sincere congratulations to Hadassah for 90 years of providing the adage that together we can make a difference and